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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Application No.:** 

09/955,554

Filing Date:

September 18, 2001

Applicant:

Vann, et al.

Group Art Unit:

To Be Assigned

Examiner:

To Be Assigned

Title:

MATRIX STORAGE AND DISPENSING SYSTEM

Attorney Docket:

9692-000008/COA

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

04/17/2003 EEKUBAY1 0010080000 Name/Number:09955554

\$456.00 SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

-168.00 OP

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claim as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A system for storing and dispensing a plurality of reagents, comprising:

an addressable array of reagent dispensers;

a gate mechanism at a lower outlet region of each dispenser, each gate

mechanism being independently operable between (i) an open condition permitting

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